DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 225 724 RC 013 764

AUTHOR	Weissman, Ron; And Others
TITLE	What's Happening in February?
INSTITUTION	Connecticut State Migratory Children's Program, New Haven.; Hamden-New Haven Cooperative Education Center, Conn.
SPONS AGENCY	Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (ED), Washington, DC. Migrant Education Programs.
PUB DATE	Feb 83
NOTE	91p.; For related documents, see RC 013 765-766 and ED 213 543. Best copy available.
AVAILABLE FROM	Ethnic/Arts Migrant Project, Hamden-New Haven Cooperative Education Center, 1450 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517-2497.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom Use - Guides (For Teachers) (052)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Black Achievement; Black History; *Cultural Activities; Cultural Awareness; Cultural Education; Elementary Education; *Leaders; *Learning Activities; *Migrant Education; Politics; *Puerto Ricans; Slavery
IDENTIFIERS	Holidays

ABSTRACT

Brief information is given on 12 February events celebrated by Puerto Ricans: Groundhog Day; Candlemas; St. Valentine's Day; Mardi Gras; Ash Wednesday; Black History; and the birthdays of Thomas Alva Edison, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Julia de Burgos, Luis Munoz Marin, and George Washington. Designed as a teacher resource, the booklet includes brief biographical sketches of Thomas Edison, an American inventor; Abraham Lincoln; Susan B. Anthony; Julia de Burgos, a Puerto Rican poetess; Luis Munoz Marin, first Puerto Rican governor elected by the people; and George Washington. Brief information is provided on Groundhog Day, Candlemas (a religious ceremony), St. Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, and Ash Wednesday. Brief biographical sketches of famous blacks are provided: Absalom Jones, first black rector in the U.S. Episcopal Church; Nat Love, a cowboy; Dr. Charles Richard Drew, "Father of the Blood Bank"; Paul Laurence Dunbar, first black American to receive recognition as a literary figure; Rafael Cordero, "father of public education in Puerto Rico"; Ernesto Ramos Antonini, involved in the creation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and Dr. Jose Celso Barbosa, a medical doctor involved in politics. The booklet includes a list of 20 historical happenings in February, several poems, and various suggested learning activities. (NQA)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED225724
RC 01 3764

What's Happening

Black History Month

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
✓ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

RECEIVED FEB ERIC/CRESS

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Leonor Soto
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Statue of "The Freed Slave" at the Philadelphia, Pa. Centennial Exposition

in February?

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - CONNECTICUT MIGRATORY ETHNIC/ARTS PROJECT

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CONNECTICUT MIGRATORY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

ETHNIC/ARTS COMPONENT

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY?

Materials prepared by:

- Ron Weissman
  Curriculum Specialist
- Leonor Toro, Coordinator
  Migratory Ethnic/Arts Component
- Lottie L. Miles, Curriculum Specialist
  Bridgeport Board of Education
- Robert J. Moore, Teacher of English
  Hamden-New Haven Cooperative Education Center

Illustrated by:

- Justo Ortiz "Tito"

Curriculum Assistant

- Roberta Hanson

Funds for this project were provided by the Federal Migrant Program under a special State Cultural Awareness Component Grant to the Hamden-New Haven Cooperative Education Center, Dr. Robert S. Avery, Director.

Copies can be obtained from the Ethnic/Arts Migrant Project, located at the Hamden-New Haven Cooperative Education Center, 1450 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut 06517-2497.

Special thanks are given to Dr. Patrick Proctor, ESEA State Title I Director, Migratory Children's Program, Connecticut State Department of Education and to Mr. Reinaldo Matos, State Migrant Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education, for their efforts and assistance in bringing this booklet from an idea to the present stage of its development. February, 1983.

"What's Happening?" is designed as a resource for teachers' use only.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
What's Happening in February? (Ron Weissman)	1
February (Ron Weissman)	3
Groundhog Day (Ron Weissman)	4
Candlemas (Ron Weissman)	6
Thomas Alva Edison (Ron Weissman)	8
Abraham Lincoln (Ron Weissman)	10
St. Valentine's Day (Ron Weissman)	13
Susan B. Anthony (Ron Weissman)	16
Mardi Gras (Ron Weissman)	18
Ash Wednesday (Ron Weissman)	19
Julia de Burgos (Leonor Toro)	20
Luis Muñoz Marín (Leonor Toro	22
George Washington (Ron Weissman)	27
Black History Month (Robert J. Moore and Lottie L. Miles)	30
Puerto Ricans in Black History (Leonor Toro)	45

(Activities on Pages 7, 15 & 21 were prepared by Leonor Toro)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY?

1 National Freedom Day.
Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery.

Black History Month.

2 Candlemas Day.

Groundhog Day.

4 1789, George Washington named first President of the U.S. by Electoral College.

8 1910 Boy Scouts of America chartered.

11 National Science Youth Day.
Commemorates birthday of Thomas Alva Edison, born 1847.

12 Lincoln's Birthday.

14 Valentine's Day.

1859, Oregon admitted to the Union as 33rd State.

1912, Arizona becomes 48th State.

17 1801, Thomas Jefferson elected President by House of Representatives.

Julia de Burgos - Poetess, 1918.

18 1861, Jefferson Davis inaugurated as President of Confederate States of America.

1898, Luis Muñoz Marín first governor of Puerto Rico elected by the people on the island.

19 1878, Edison receives patent on the phonograph.

1945, U.S. Marines land on island of Iwo Jima during fierce World War II battle against the Japanese.

20 John Glenn Day.
Commemorates astronaut Glenn's orbiting the Earth in 1962.

21 1972, President Nixon visits Red China. Talks with Mao Tse-tung.

22 Washington's Birthday.
1819, Spain cedes Florida to U.S.

23 1836, Battle of the Alamo begins, San Antonio, Texas.
1945, U.S. Marines raise flag at Iwo Jima.
1954, First mass inoculations with Salk anti-polio serum.

24 1868, House of Representatives votes to impeach President Andrew Johnson.

28 Bachelors Day (in non-leap years).

29 Bachelors Day (in leap year).
Leap Year Day occurs once every four years. Next leap year: 1984.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FEBRUARY

Quotation: Thirty days hath September,
April, June and November;
All the rest have thirty-one,
Excepting February alone,
Which hath but twenty-eight, in fine,
Til leap year gives it twenty-nine.

Source: Familiar Quotations by John Bartlett

February, the second month of the year, is also the shortest month. It has only 28 days except in leap year - when it has 29. The leap year occurs once every four years when one day is added to February to make the calendar year equal the solar year.

February was named after Februus, the Roman god of purification.

For February, the birthstone is the beautiful Amethyst. The flowers of the month are the primrose and the violet.

Source: Encyclopedia Americana
Grolier, Inc. 1982, Danbury, CT

Creative Activity

Have each student write a short poem, story or play describing the months of the year. Suggestion: Have the students use the above children's rhyme as a model or starting point to get their creative juices flowing.

February Word Game

Unscramble all of the words. Suggestion: Give a prize to the student who unscrambles all of the words first.

1. erbtepmes
2. semorirp
3. erbfuyra
4. buefurs
5. yrtiht
6. epal
7. yrea
8. alcardne
9. orsla
10. omrna
11. htomn
12. mhyttsea

ANSWERS: 1-September 2-Primrose 3-February 4-Februus 5-Thirty 6-Leap 7-Year
8-Calendar 9-Solar 10-Roman 11-Month 12-Amethyst

Groundhog Day - February 2

It's no coincidence that Candlemas Day and Groundhog Day both occur on February 2.

An old European folk belief held that for six weeks following Candlemas Day, February 2, the weather would be the exact opposite of that day. Thus, if Candlemas Day were sunny, there would be six more weeks of cold weather. But if Candlemas Day were cloudy, mild weather would come early and spring crop planting could begin.

According to the superstition, hibernating animals, such as the groundhog, came out of hibernation on February 2, Candlemas Day. If the animal saw his own shadow (a sunny day), he would become frightened and crawl back into his hole to sleep for six more weeks. Hence, six more weeks of cold weather. However, if the skies were cloudy, the groundhog would stay above ground to enjoy the early spring weather that would soon follow.

Of course, farmers hoped for nasty, inclement weather on Candlemas Day, for it meant only one thing - good weather to come.

The English and Scots had many rhymes to explain their superstition. For example:

If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Winter will have another flight;
But if it is dark with clouds and rain,
Winter is gone and will not come again.

Eventually, this folk belief made its way to America. Superstitious farmers watched for the groundhog on February 2 and planted their crops in accordance with the animal's behavior.

Encyclopedia Americana
Grolier, Inc. 1982

All About American Holidays
by Maymie R. Krythe
Harper & Brothers, NY 1962

Creative Activity: Discuss the nature of superstitions with your students. Then ask each student to list as many superstitious behaviors he or she can think of.

Groundhog Day Word Game: How many words can you make using the word superstition? (At least 100 words)

ANSWERS:

in	pious	rest	spurt	tin
insert	piston	rite	sputter	tie
it	pit	rotten	stein	tire
nest	piton	rust	step	tissue
no	pitter	site	stern	titer
noise	poise	spin	stint	toe
not	pore	spine	stipe	ton
note	port	spinet	stir	tone
on	pose	spire	stone	top
pent	posit	spirit	stop	tore
persist	post	spirt	store	tort
person	posture	spit	stun	toss
pert	potent	spite	stunt	tot
pest	pour	spore	super	tote
pet	prose	sport	ten	tress
peter	protest	spot	tent	trite
petition	pun	sprout	terse	tour
pier	punt	spruce	test	tout
pin	put	spun	tie	tune
pine	resist	spur	tin	us

Candlemas - February 2

Candlemas is the religious ceremony celebrated forty days after Christmas, the day of Christ's birth. According to Mosaic laws (Leviticus 12:2-8), on this day the Mother Mary must present her child at the temple and appear for her purification.

The name, Candlemas, is derived from the big event of the ceremony. Candles are blessed and then carried in procession around the church. The blessing and carrying of the candles was intended to symbolize the entry of Christ, the Light of the World, into the Temple of Jerusalem. During the momentous event, the pious Simeon saw that the Child Christ was the Spiritual Light of the World. Also, the prophetess, Anna, recognized Jesus as the Saviour.

Sources: Encyclopedia Americana
Grolier, Inc. 1982

All About American Holidays
by Maymie R. Krythe
Harper & Brothers, NY 1962

Creative Activity: Have your students list as many different uses for a candle (and its parts) as they can. Set a time limit; the student who thinks up the most uses for a candle is the winner. For example: a candle's hot wax can be used to write with when a pen isn't available; a candle's wick can be used to tickle people or as emergency string; melted candle wax can be used to plug leaks or holes; a candle can be carved to make different shapes and animals. Anything goes! The more imaginative, the better. Suggestion: Each day, you could play this game using a different object, such as a pencil one day, a rubberband the next and so on.

REMINDER: Fire Safety Warning.

Don't forget to warn the children about the dangers of playing with burning candles. Fires can start and spread easily with the hot, melting, highly flammable wax of a burning candle.

Fireman Word Puzzle: Locate the words listed below in the word search puzzle. Words can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally or backwards.

r e x i t a r s t h e x l l
i n w a t e r s r x m n a e
g a n s o a r e a c e a d v
h m e m e y e l i s r i d o
t e r o s r g e n t g t e h
o r i k o t n r i o e a r s
f i s e h n a a n o n m s t
w f i r e e d c g b c l e e
a s p r i n k l e r y a v m
y r o t c u r t s n i d o l
b i t s a f e t y n e t l e
r a i n c o a t r u c k g h
h e l p n o i t n e v e r p

axe
boots
careless
Dalmatian
danger
emergency
entry
exit
fire
fireman
gloves
helmet
help
hose
instructor
ladder
prevention
raincoat
right-of-way
safety net
shovel
siren
smoke
sprinkler
training
truck
water

(L. Toro)

Thomas Alva Edison

(1847-1931)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

"Genius is one per cent inspiration and ninety-nine per cent perspiration."

Thomas Edison, newspaper interview, 1931
The Great Quotations compiled by George Seldes,
Simon and Schuster, Inc., New York, NY

Thomas Alva Edison, an American inventor, was born in Milan, Ohio on February 11, 1847. Edison was one of the most prolific inventors of all time. When he died at West Orange, New Jersey, on October 18, 1931, Edison had patents on more than 1,000 inventions. Incredibly, Edison was self-educated. Eager and curious, he learned by constantly asking questions and discovering for himself how things worked. He was the epitome of the self-taught genius.

His inventions led to several major industries. He developed the first practical incandescent lamp (1879). He developed the world's first central electric light-power station (1882). Edison installed the first of these large central power stations on a street in New York City. The success of this station led to the construction of many other power stations. Eventually, he formed the Edison Electric Light Company (1878) which later merged with other companies to form the giant General Electric Company (1892).

Edison also invented a transmitter and receiver for the automatic telegraph. Early in his career at the age of 21, he invented a stock ticker which could print quotations from the stock exchange right in the broker's office. He developed a lamp that could glow for 40 hours (a major achievement at that time).

He also discovered a phenomenon called Thermionic Emission (later known as Edison Effect) which proved to be the foundation for many modern electronic inventions.

But the invention he was most proud of was the phonograph, which he invented in 1877. Thomas Alva Edison also invented the movie projector which hastened the growth and development of the motion picture industry. In addition, he invented the alkaline storage battery, a process to extract iron ore, and the carbon microphone.

Each of his inventions helped create an entire industry. Without a doubt, Thomas Alva Edison helped changed the world.

Academic American Encyclopedia
Arete Publishing Co., Princeton, NJ

Creative Activity: Discuss the nature of creativity and genius with your students Base your discussion around Edison's quote: "Genius is one per cent inspiration and ninety-nine per cent perspiration."

List twenty machines or appliances that run on electricity.

1. washing machine
2. flashlight
3. vacuum cleaner
4. microwave oven
5. television
6. phonograph
7. hairdryer
8. mixer
9. camera
10. refrigerator
11. telephone
12. typewriter
13. movie projector
14. air conditioner
15. car
16. dishwasher
17. video games
18. wrist watch
19. calculator
20. radio

List ten machines or electrical devices that use a battery.

1. flashlight
2. cameras
3. car
4. wrist watch
5. calculator
6. radio
7. toys
8. tape recorders
9. electric toothbrush
10. heart pacemaker

Abraham Lincoln

(1809-1865)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

"Malice toward none" and "Charity for all."

From Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865.

Those words tell a lot about the man who said them. Known as the Great Emancipator for his wise and courageous leadership during the Civil War, Abe Lincoln helped abolish slavery in the United States, saved our nation from being torn asunder and gave a lesson for all mankind on the virtues of compassion and humaneness.

It's no wonder that today many historians consider Abraham Lincoln the greatest president America ever had.

Born on February 12, 1809 in a log cabin in Hardin (now Larue) County, Kentucky, Abe Lincoln went on to become the 16th president of the United States.

The molding of his strong beliefs started in early childhood. Lincoln grew up in a family environment that strongly disapproved of slavery. This early upbringing would soon play a pivotal role in his life and his country.

In 1816, the Lincoln family moved to Indiana where slavery was forbidden by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. He lived there for awhile. Then, in 1830, the Lincolns moved again, this time to Illinois. It was here that Lincoln's brilliant career began. At first, in 1832, he ran unsuccessfully for the Illinois legislature. However, two years later he was elected to the lower house. He was re-elected for four successive terms in that position until 1841. During this period, his opposition to slavery became known.

While serving his first term in the lower house, he became a lawyer. During this time, he also met his future wife, Mary Todd. He was also losing interest in politics. However, events to come would soon revive his interest.

In 1854, Stephen A. Douglas, a young legislator, managed to have repealed a critically important part of the Missouri Compromise that had banned slavery in certain lands in the Louisiana Purchase.

In place of the Missouri Compromise, Douglas convinced Congress to pass the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. This legislation gave the local residents of these territories the right to prohibit or allow slavery as they chose.

Lincoln, always a believer that slavery was wrong, saw this as a serious and dangerous development for the rights of all men. Lincoln decided to run for the U.S. Senate. Although he never won, it led to the famous Lincoln-Douglas Debates. During these exciting debates, Lincoln argued brilliantly against slavery. But Douglas was also a master of debate. To this day, most historians do their own debating over who won the Debates. Some feel Lincoln won. Some feel the victory went to Douglas. Still others feel the debates were a draw. Whoever won the debates, one thing is for certain, Lincoln did not win the election. The Illinois Legislature, controlled by the Democrats, elected the Democrat Douglas over Lincoln, who ran on the newly formed Republican Party ticket. But the debates served a good purpose: Lincoln was now well-known and well-liked across the nation. Thus, in 1860, Lincoln was able to become a presidential candidate. He went on to defeat Douglas and several other candidates to become the 16th president of the United States.

However, Lincoln was not popular everywhere - especially in the pro-slavery states of the South. By the time Lincoln was inaugurated, seven states had seceded from the Union to form the Confederate States of America. On April 12, 1861, South Carolina, the state that had led the secession, attacked the Union's Fort Sumter. The Civil War had begun.

On January 1, 1863, Lincoln banned slavery with his now famous Emancipation Proclamation. In 1854, Lincoln endorsed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution completely abolishing slavery. The 13th Amendment became law on December 18, 1865.

Earlier in that same year, General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate States surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at the Appomattox Court House. Five days later, on April 14, 1865, Lincoln, attending a performance at Ford's Theater in Washington, was assassinated by the actor, John Wilkes Booth.

Lincoln will be remembered forever as the man who saved the Union and freed the slaves - Lincoln, the man who believed in "malice toward none" and "charity for all."

Note: In many states, Lincoln's Birthday is celebrated on the first Monday in February.

Lincoln wrote many powerfully moving speeches. The most famous was the Gettysburg Address (November 19, 1863) in which he spoke of the Civil War as a rededication to the ideals of equality for all men as originally stated in the Declaration of Independence.

> Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
>
> Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.
>
> But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate- we can not consecrate - we can not hallow - this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Sources: Academic American Encyclopedia-Arete Publishing Co., Inc., Princeton, NJ 1980
Encyclopedia Americana-Grolier, Inc., Danbury, CT 1982

St. Valentine's Day - February 14

A day dedicated to love. So why are wolves, birds and a cruel emperor associated with it?

There are several theories to explain the origin of St. Valentine's Day and the custom of giving gifts and sending romantic messages on this day. The name, St. Valentine, is associated with two Valentines. They were both martyrs of the early Christian Church, although some authorities believe the two Valentines were one and the same person.

According to legend, one of the Valentines was a priest executed in Rome during the cruel reign of Claudius the Goth at about A.D. 269. The other Valentine was believed to have been a bishop of Interamna, who may also have been martyred in Rome. Were they the same man? To this day, no one knows for certain.

One version of the Valentine legends tells how the evil Emperor Claudius wished to recruit soldiers for his wars, but many of his men did not want to leave their wives and sweethearts. In anger, Claudius declared that no marriages could be performed and all engagements were to be canceled. The priest Valentine, feeling that this act of Claudius was cruel and unfair, secretly married young couples. Claudius, enraged by Valentine's defiance, put Valentine in prison where he eventually died. However, during Valentine's imprisonment, he cured the jailer's daughter of blindness. Valentine fell in love with the girl and sent her love missives signed "From Your Valentine". Hence, the custom of sending Valentine cards arose. And of course, Saint Valentine became the Patron Saint of Lovers.

Still another theory believes that St. Valentine's Day has its origin in the Feast of Lupercalia. On February 15, the ancient Romans held this festival in honor of the god, Lupercus, who watched over and protected the shepherds and their flocks from the hungry wolves that roamed outside Rome. The festival of

Lupercalia included a fertility rite to ensure the women's fertility. Later, with the spread of Christianity, the priests replaced this heathen festival with a Christian celebration, St. Valentine's Day. The wise priests knew heathen practices couldn't be easily eliminated, and besides, the fertility rite of the Lupercalian festival could be easily reinterpreted as the "rites of love".

Yet, one more theory connects St. Valentine's Day with an old English belief that on February 14 birds choose their mates. Thus came a natural association with "love and mating". (Springtime is for lovers.)

What theory do you think best explains the origin and customs of St. Valentine's Day? Or do you think St. Valentine's Day is a combination of all the above legends?

Whatever the real story behind the celebration, come February 14, people celebrate St. Valentine's Day. Friends exchange affectionate messages and gifts. Children make Valentine cards for their parents, their relatives and even their teachers. And, of course, lovers send Valentines and heart-shaped boxes of candy to their sweethearts.

Creative Activity: Using colored paper, crayons and paste, have each student create his or her own Valentine card. And let each student write his or her own Valentine message. Afterward, put all the cards on a classroom wall for display.

Valentine Activity: The heart is part of your body. By changing one letter in each of the following words, you can name a part of your body.

1. sung	a. nail
2. sip	b. arm
3. art	c. leg
4. chip	d. hip
5. land	e. ankle
6. let	f. hair
7. lead	g. chin
8. hose	h. hand
9. south	i. head
10. lair	j. lung
11. mail	k. mouth
12. angle	l. nose
13. heard	m. finger
14. loot	n. heart
15. linger	o. foot

(L. Toro)

Susan B. Anthony

(1820-1906)

Did she do for womankind what Lincoln did for mankind? Susan B. Anthony, born February 15, 1820, was one of America's most important pioneers of women's rights. Just as Abraham Lincoln fought for equal rights for all mankind, Susan B. Anthony fought for women's rights.

In 1866, she helped create the American Equal Rights Association. In 1869, she helped create the National Women's Suffrage Association.

Throughout her life, Susan B. Anthony devoted herself to helping her sisters. She fought valiantly for women's suffrage (the right to vote). In 1872, she was arrested for trying to vote. In her defense, she argued that the 14th and 15th Amendments applied to all people - to men and women.

From 1892 to 1900, Anthony was president of the National American Suffrage Association. Thanks to her tireless work, people around the globe became aware of the problems of equality women faced, and the need for affirmative action.

Fourteen years after her death, the Congress of the United States passed the "Anthony Amendment" (the 19th Amendment) which gave full suffrage for women.

Another important contribution: To get results on behalf of the many causes she fought for, Susan B. Anthony developed the practice of inundating elected officials with thousands of petitions. Anthony died March 13, 1906.

Sources: Academic American Encyclopedia
Arete Publishing Co., 1980
Princeton, NJ

Encyclopedia Americana
Grolier Inc., Danbury CT 1982

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Creative Activity:

1. Have each student write a short essay describing how life would be different for women if people like Susan B. Anthony hadn't fought for the equality of women.

2. Read and discuss the 14th and 15th Amendments. To whom do they apply?

Susan B. Anthony Activity: How many words can you make using the word E Q U A L I T Y?
(At least 25 words)

ANSWERS:

ail
ale
ait
eat
equal
equity
it
Italy
late
lay
lie
lit
lye
quail
quale
quality
quay
quiet
quilt
quit
tale
tea
teal
tie
tile

MARDI GRAS

Mardi Gras are the French words for Fat Tuesday-also known as Shrove Tuesday. Mardi Gras originally referred to the last day of carnival festivities before Ash Wednesday, the first fasting day of Lent. However, the name Mardi Gras has come to mean the entire festival period. Worshipers enjoy the festivities of the Mardi Gras before they begin the long period of penitence (Lent) in preparation for Easter.

Well-known Mardi Gras celebrations take place in New Orleans, Louisiana; Mobile, Alabama; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and Nice, France.

Source: Academic American Encyclopedia

Creative Activity: Have your students create a mini-Mardi Gras carnival in the classroom. Have each student design and make his or her own costume. Then celebrate with a little "Mardi Gras" party.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ASH WEDNESDAY

(This year: February 16)

The name Ash Wednesday comes from the custom (in the Roman Catholic, Anglican and other churches) of dabbing ashes on the foreheads of worshipers to represent death and sorrow for sin - a sign of penitence.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent and the seventh Wednesday before Easter, begins the forty weekday period of fasting and penitence to remember and symbolize the fasting of Jesus in the Wilderness.

Source: Academic American Encyclopedia

Creative Activity: Have each student make a list of everyday symbols. Write a short essay explaining the meaning and use of symbols. Then have each student create and draw a symbol to represent any common day-to-day happening such as eating dinner, sleeping, reading or anything that can be represented by a visual symbol.

Ash Wednesday Puzzle: Locate the words listed below in the word search puzzle. Words can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally or backwards.

N	S	C	H	U	R	C	H	M	T	J	F
G	R	N	L	F	Y	T	S	R	I	F	O
I	E	E	E	D	A	Y	N	A	M	O	R
S	P	C	C	A	D	S	X	V	S	R	E
S	I	B	A	N	S	O	T	P	S	T	H
U	H	D	F	Y	E	H	I	I	Y	Y	E
S	S	A	M	U	N	T	S	N	N	Q	A
E	R	B	W	Z	D	H	I	T	C	G	D
J	O	O	T	Y	E	S	L	N	O	C	I
L	W	S	W	K	W	I	N	E	E	B	T
S	E	V	E	N	T	H	N	L	K	P	W
D	O	I	R	E	P	R	E	T	S	A	E

1. ASH
2. CHURCH
3. DAB
4. DAY
5. EASTER
6. FASTING
7. FIRST
8. FOREHEAD
9. FORTY
10. JESUS
11. LENT
12. PENITENCE
13. PERIOD
14. ROMAN
15. SEVENTH
16. SIGN
17. SIN
18. SYMBOL
19. WEDNESDAY
20. WORSHIPERS

Julia de Burgos

(1918-1953)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Julia de Burgos was born on February 17, 1918 in Carolina, Puerto Rico near the Limones rivulet, a tributary to the Loiza River. She went to public schools and with great effort attended the University of Puerto Rico and became a teacher. Her teaching career started in the town of Naranjito. From the beginning, Julia was a rebel and non-conformist.

She became a poetess and her first poems were published in 1937. She received an award from the Institute of Puerto Rican Literature for her third book in 1939.

Even though she was very successful on the island, her militant rebelliousness and scorn for all conventional things, pushed her to find a different environment; an environment where individual freedom can be enjoyed.

Separated from her husband, Julia went to New York in 1940. She was the successful poetess on her island that the big city destroyed. She never worked as a teacher and became lost in the anonymity of the large city. Alcohol became her enemy.

In February of 1953, her poem "Adios" (good-bye) to life was published in English. The same year the police found her unconscious, lying on the street corner of Fifth Avenue and 105th Street in Spanish Harlem. She was taken to Harlem Hospital and died on July 5, 1953 without ever regaining consciousness.

Her most famous poem is "Rio Grande de Loiza". In it, the river bed is her island, her blood and the blood of Puerto Rico.

"Dadme Mi Número" (Give Me My Number) is another beautiful poem about sorrow.

Excerpt: Give Me My Number

Casi no puedo con el mundo que azota entero mi conciencia...	I cannot bear the world that lashes at my conscience...
¡Dadme mi número! No quiero que hasta el amor se me desprenda...	Give me my number! I do not want to loose even my love...
(Unido sueño que me sigue como a mis pasos va la huella.)	(Together with the dream that follows me as footprints follow my steps.)
¡Dadme mi número, porque si no, me moriré después de muerta!	Give me my number, If not I shall die after death!

Activity: Julia de Burgos

Draw a line from the word to the picture that rhymes.

1. car
2. mouse
3. near
4. wall
5. late
6. bat
7. wish
8. ran
9. sand
10. log
11. tips
12. stone

(L. Toro)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Luis Muñoz Marín

(1898-1980)

Luis Muñoz Marín was born on February 18, 1898. His parents were Luis Muñoz Rivera and Amalia Marín. He studied Political Science in Georgetown University and Journalism in Columbia University. Muñoz Marín became famous as a journalist, essayist, poet and politician.

Besides being a literary, he was a very good public speaker. As a very successful politician, he served in several distinguished positions to which he was appointed or elected.

1. Secretary to Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner in Washington.
2. Economic Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Washington
3. Senator for the Liberal Party in Puerto Rico.
4. Senator for the Popular Democratic Party in Puerto Rico.
5. Founder of the Popular Democratic Party.
6. First Puerto Rican Governor elected by the people.
7. Creator of the commonwealth system of government for Puerto Rico.

When Muñoz Marín founded the Popular Democratic Party, it was, in a sense, a historical occasion for the island. The changes that occurred were without precedent.

The economic and social progress was felt in all areas. Puerto Rico's economy changed in a very short time from an agricultural economy to an industrialized one.

Muñoz Marín died on April 30, 1980.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Names in the Puerto Rican Culture:

The Spanish custom holds in the matter of family names.

If a man's name is José Rivera Pérez, the Rivera is his father's surname and the Pérez is his mother's maiden last name. His sister will be Ana Rivera Pérez.

If Ana marries Pablo Otero Lugo, her name will be Ana Rivera de Otero. Her son's name will be Luis Otero Rivera and her daughter will be Hilda Otero Rivera.

Poems by Muñoz Marín

1. "Umbrellas"

Tell me,
Umbrella-mongers
When has an umbrella ever
Kept the rains and the mist from entering a heart
and shaping it with dreams?
When has it kept the rain and the mist
From entering a heart and breaking it?

2. "A Death"

One more husk never again to blur beauty
in passing;
One more husk gone to feed the roots of
the gathering spring;
One more world of hunger and memory
Gone to feed the roots of the gathering spring.

3. "At the Stake"

How can I take you seriously, martyr?
Did I not once surprise the bottom of my soul
In the act of enjoying hugely
The renunciation of the surface of my soul?

After World War II as the mass of Puerto Ricans slumped deeper into despondent poverty, he wrote:

I have broken the rainbow
against my heart
as one breaks a useless sword against a knee
I have blown the clouds of rose color and blood color
beyond the farthest horizons.
I have drowned my dreams
in order to glut the dreams that sleep for me in the veins
of men who sweated and wept and raged
to season my coffee...

The dreams that sleep in breasts stifled by tuberculosis
(A little air, a little sunshine)
the dreams that dream in stomachs strangled by hunger
(A bit of bread, a bit of white bread)
the dream of bare feet
(Fewer stones on the road, Lord, fewer broken bottles)
the dream of calloused hands
(Moss...clean cambric...things smooth, soft, soothing)
The dreams of trampled hearts
(Love...life...life)

Quotes:

"I know two dollars will buy a lot of beans and rice for your family. But if you don't sell your vote, you can use it to get justice for your family. So remember: Justice or two dollars. But you can't have both."

"Parties that win elections by buying votes, do not need to comply with their promises to people. They are obliged to take orders from those that provided the money to buy the votes."

"If you sell your vote, you sell your rights in your government. You sell the future of your children."

Anecdote:

It was a clear night lit by stars. Muñoz Marín reached the place where he was scheduled to speak on a road clearing. Only two or three jíbaros* were standing by the road.

One of the jíbaros pointed to the microphone and amplifier and smiled. "Go ahead, he said, "talk. Talk loud."

Nearly alone on a hillside overlooking a softly sloping valley, Muñoz began his speech feeling a little bit foolish. He had only spoken a few minutes, when he perceived tiny lights burning in the blanket of darkness until they seemed as numerous as the fireflies.

The grinning jíbaro explained, "They light their candles to let you know they can hear you. The employers will not let them leave the haciendas. Go on, talk to them, they are listening."

Muñoz Marín Program for Puerto Rico:

1. Support for the law limiting corporate land ownership to five hundred acres.
2. Readjustment of taxes.
3. Protection of agriculture and farm rights.
4. Marketplaces for produce and fruit.
5. Agricultural cooperatives.
6. Aid for redemption of foreclosures.
7. Moratorium on uncollectable taxes.
8. A higher sugar quota in the United States market.
9. Designation of sugar as a public industry.
10. Creation of a People's Bank.
11. Minimum wages.
12. Homes for sharecroppers.

*jíbaros: country folk in Puerto Rico.

13. A Food Commission to reduce the cost of living.
14. Promotion of new industries.
15. Social security against unemployment, disability, old age, maternity and sickness.
16. Slum clearance.
17. Expedition of personal loans for workers and the middle class.
18. Legislation to encourage organized labor.
19. Legislation against absentee ownership and the coastal shipping regulations.
20. Support of civil liberties.
21. A program for water supply and water power.
22. A commission of all parties to investigate the performance of the majority party in power.
23. A fifty-percent reduction in costs of operating the Capitolio, the Senate and House of Representatives.
24. Elimination of nepotism in government.

Bibliography: Heroes of Puerto Rico
by Jay Nelson Tuck and
Norma Coolen Vergara

Poet in the Fortress
by Thomas Aitken, Jr.

La Gran Encyclopedia of Puerto Rico
Volume 14

48

(L. Toro)

49

George Washington

(1732-1799)

George Washington is called "The Father of His Country". And for good reason: with his wise guidance and leadership the thirteen colonies of Great Britain became the thirteen states of a new and independent nation. Today, instead of a king or emperor, who would have absolute power over his people, we have a president who is elected by the people.

The first president of the United States, Washington led the American colonies in their war for independence and helped create the new nation. He guided our nation's growth and shaped its future. With the exception of Lincoln, few presidents have had such a lasting and influential effect on the destiny of his nation.

Born February 22, 1732, in Westmoreland County, Virginia, Washington's birthday is officially observed in many states on the third Monday of each February. Marked by patriotic ceremonies, today, many retailers around the country honor his memory with "Washington's Birthday Sales" and other special events.

Celebrating important Americans' birthdays probably began with Washington. During colonial times, it was traditional (some say law) to observe the British King's birthday. After the thirteen colonies became a nation, they adopted this custom by celebrating our first president's birthday.

To share their love, respect and admiration for their leader, in the winter of 1778, the band of the Fourth Continental Artillery honored Washington with music. It was on his birthday, at his Valley Forge headquarters.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

His Life

Washington had a wealthy family background. In his early years, he studied surveying and at about 15 years of age he became a competent field surveyor. Soon after, his military career began.

During the French and Indian War (1754-63), Washington, still only 22 years of age, was promoted to lieutenant colonel as a result of his intelligent leadership and handling of military matters.

Washington proved a worthy leader and at the age of 23 was promoted to colonel and appointed commander-in-chief of the Virginia militia.

Encouraged by friends, Washington entered politics and from 1759-74 served on Virginia's House of Burgesses. Seventeen fifty-nine is also the year he met his future wife, Martha. Washington soon became a leader in Virginia's opposition to Great Britain's colonial policies.

Finally, in 1774-75, he became a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congress. In June 1775, Congress unanimously chose him as their Commander-in-Chief of the Continental forces.

During the Revolutionary War for Independence, Washington led his troops in many battles with the British. There were many setbacks and many victories. Then came the winter at Valley Forge; his men were cold and hungry and they were losing spirit. But during this time, France chose to recognize American independence. And with the aid of the French, particularly the Marquis de Lafayette, Washington turned his army around into a genuine fighting force. In 1780, the French army also came to Washington's aid. The tide of victory was turning in the Americans' favor.

All this time, Washington's reputation was growing. He was admired and respected by his troops and by Congress. After the war, Washington returned to his home, Mount Vernon, and for a time, he avoided politics. Then in May 1787, he headed the Virginia delegation to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Soon thereafter, a Constitution for the new nation was submitted to the state for ratification and Washington was unanimously elected the first president (1789) of the United States of America.

He took office April 30, 1789. Acting wisely, he helped build a secure and great nation. He was re-elected president in 1792 for a second term. Washington died December 14, 1799.

Sources: Academic American Encyclopedia
Arete Publishing Company, Inc.
Princeton, NJ 1980

All About American Holidays
By Maymie R. Krythe
Harper & Brothers, NY 1962

Creative Activity: Ask each student to explain why he or she thinks Washington is called "The Father of His Country". A question to consider: Would the Thirteen Colonies have become a new nation without the help of Washington's wise leadership?

Washington's Birthday Word Game: Fill in the blanks.

Washington led the thirteen_____during the Revolutionary War for_____. Washington was the_____president of the United _____.During his early career, Washington was a field_____. His military career soon followed where he demonstrated qualities of_____. During one winter, Washington set up his_____at Valley_____. The French recognized American_____. Victory over the_____ soon followed.

Answers:
1. British
2. surveyor
3. Independence
4. leadership
5. Forge
6. Colonies
7. first
8. States
9. headquarters
10. Independence

B L A C K A W A R E N E S S

AMERICA is great because countless men and women have worked hard in their own ways to make life better and more beautiful.

Many, many Black Americans, as well as other minorities, have made outstanding contributions in the fields of music, art, literature, science, medicine, education, diplomacy, sports and exploration which have been often omitted from the textbooks.

Just as self-acceptance is the basis of your self-concept, knowledge of your heritage is an important part of your self-respect.

It's February and time to celebrate Black History as instituted in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a Black historian, who wanted to give recognition to famous Black Americans for their outstanding contributions.

There should be emphasis placed on the contributions of Black Americans, however, we should not stop there.

Listed below are suggested ways of correlating Black History with other curriculum materials and ways of enhancing your efforts in multi-cultural appreciations.

MUSIC

- Discuss different types of musical instruments. Listen to records and discuss the cultures associated with the music you heard.
- Sing some spirituals and discuss their origins.
- Invite a local singer in to give some selections of music from their cultural background.

ART

- Take the class to see exhibitions or art work by Black artists. Visit a museum or shop where African Artifacts and Afro-American materials are featured.
- Invite an artist to visit your classroom.
- Invite a collector of Cultural Artifacts to visit your school and show their materials.

SCIENCE

- Discuss different contributions to the field of science made by different groups of people. These contributions can be in the field of medicine, (Charles Drew) or inventions, (Garrett Morgan).
- Write essays on great inventions and their inventors.
- Show films relating to minority contributions to science, (George W. Carver).

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Discuss heroes. What does it take to be a hero? Let children suggest persons that are their heroes. Write about these heroes.
- Have local speakers come in and address your class. There are many community leaders waiting to be asked.
- Visit museums and points of interest from different cultures.
- Make collages on different subjects that would include all groups of people.
- Integrate all your bulletin boards with pictures of different groups of people.

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Discuss pictures of different groups of people and have children write stories about them.
- Read a story to children on some aspect of different cultures and let the children dramatize the story.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Teach different types of dances and discuss cultural background similarities and differences.

···· Are you looking for a play that would tell of some accomplishments of some famous Black Americans? One that can be presented by first, second, or even third graders, yet enjoyed by students from grades K through six? Well, here's your answer: "The People of Black History". For costumes use large sheets of heavy oak tag to draw your pictures representing the different characters. Cut a big hole in the picture for the child to look through. On your mark, get set, ready and GOOOOOO!

"THE PEOPLE IN BLACK HISTORY"

CHILD: We would like to tell you about the accomplishments of some famous Black Americans.

(The following song is sung by the entire class to the tune of Sesame Street's, "The People in Your Neighborhood". The verse is repeated.)

Oh, who are the people from our history?
From our history, from our history?
Oh, who are the people from our history?
We use their inventions every day.

(TRAFFIC LIGHTS and POLICEMAN step forward.)

CLASS: Red light, green light,
Yellow in-between light.
Red says stop, green says go,
Yellow says wait, even if you're late.

FIRST LIGHT: We are traffic lights.

POLICEMAN: Together, we help people cross the street safely.

SECOND LIGHT: Garrett Morgan made the first traffic light.

(TRAFFIC LIGHTS and POLICEMAN step back, as the PEANUTS and PEANUT BUTTER step forward.)

FIRST PEANUT: George Washington Carver was a botanist.

SECOND PEANUT: He was able to make 300 substances from peanuts.

PEANUT BUTTER: I am a jar of peanut butter. George Washington Carver discovered me.

(PEANUTS and PEANUT BUTTER step back, as two SHOES step forward.)

FIRST SHOE: Long ago, shoes were made by hand. Today, shoes are made by machine.

SECOND SHOE: Jan Ernst Matzeliger designed the machine that makes shoes.

(SHOES step back; DOCTOR and BOTTLE OF BLOOD step forward.)

DOCTOR: Dr. Charles Drew discovered a way to preserve blood plasma.

BLOOD: His discovery saves many lives every day.

(DOCTOR and BLOOD step back; SUGAR and CANDY BAR step forward.)

CANDY BAR: Many of the things we eat have sugar in them.

SUGAR: Norbert Rilleux invented a vacuum cup that revolutionized the sugar refining industry.

(While the CANDY BAR and SUGAR step back and the TRAIN steps forward, the class may sing any simple song about trains.)

FIRST CAR: Granville T. Woods invented many things that improved our railroads.

SECOND CAR: Automatic air brakes and a railroad telegraph are two of his inventions.

(The TRAIN steps back; the PROFESSOR steps forward.)

PROFESSOR: Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week. Our play is part of our celebration this week at (PROFESSOR inserts the school name.)

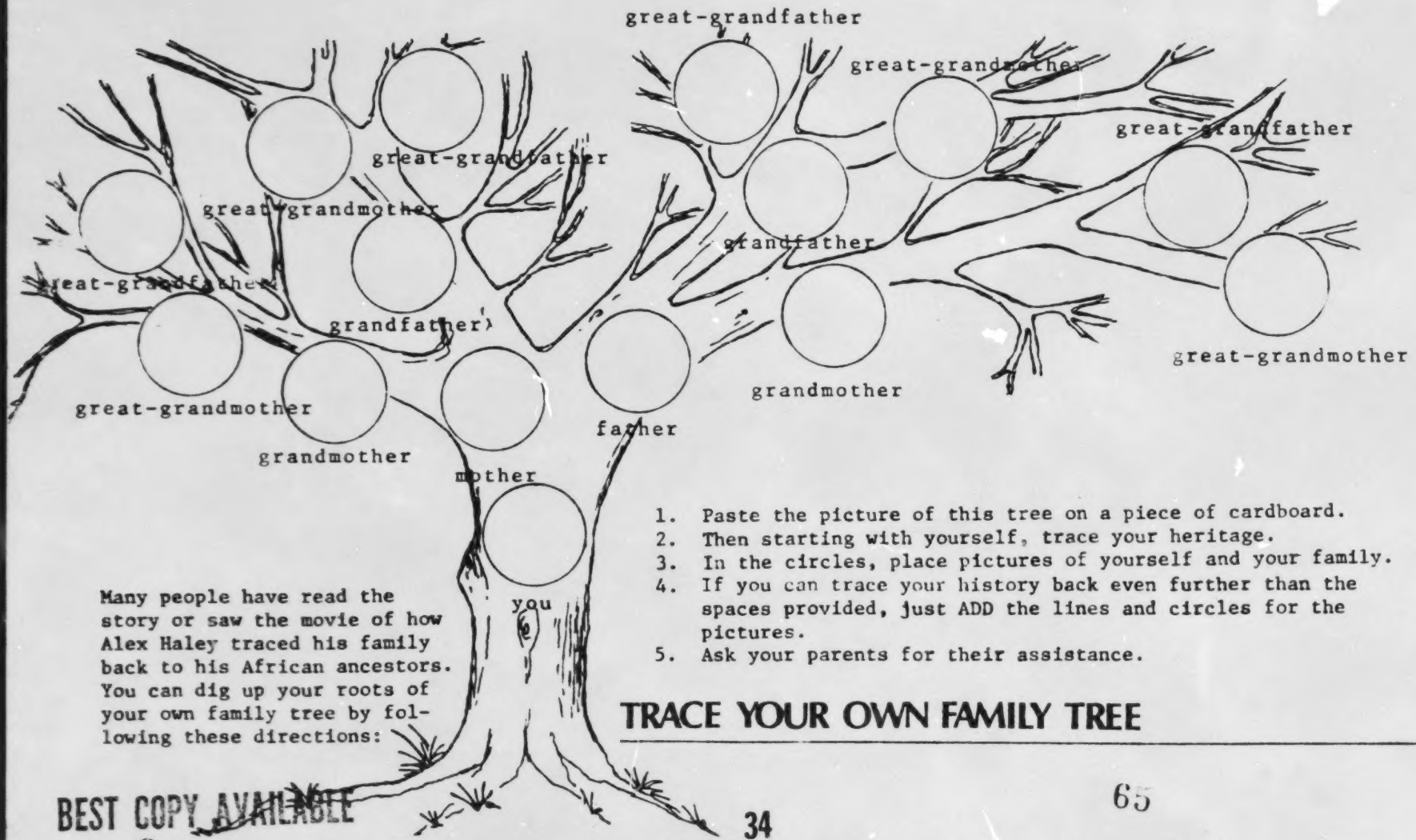
CHILD: Langston Hughes is a famous black poet. In one of his poems, called "Color", he told us how we should feel about color. He said, "Wear it like a banner, for the proud."

(The CHILD steps back; two CLOCKS step forward.)

FIRST CLOCK: Benjamin Banneker made the first clock in our country.

SECOND CLOCK: The Clock says it is time to go.

(The CLOCKS step back and the entire class repeats the song from Sesame Street which began the play.)



Many people have read the story or saw the movie of how Alex Haley traced his family back to his African ancestors. You can dig up your roots of your own family tree by following these directions:

1. Paste the picture of this tree on a piece of cardboard.
2. Then starting with yourself, trace your heritage.
3. In the circles, place pictures of yourself and your family.
4. If you can trace your history back even further than the spaces provided, just ADD the lines and circles for the pictures.
5. Ask your parents for their assistance.

TRACE YOUR OWN FAMILY TREE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

QUIZ QUESTIONS

QUES. Who was the first Black American to be appointed to a Cabinet position in the U.S. government?
ANS. *Robert Weaver-Department of Housing & Urban Development, 1966.*

QUES. Who was the young Black American killed in the Boston Massacre of 1770?
ANS. *Crispus Attucks.*

QUES. Who was one of the founders of the American Society of African Culture in 1957?
ANS. *Langston Hughes.*

QUES. Who was the Black American who urged non-violence and was assassinated in 1968?
ANS. *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

QUES. Who was a co-inventor of an incandescent light?
ANS. *Lewis Latimer.*

QUES. Who started, with $1.50, a school for girls that later became a famous college in Florida?
ANS. *Mary McLeod Bethune.*

QUES. Who was the Black American U.S. Senator from Massachusetts in 1968?
ANS. *Edward William Brooke.*

QUES. Who was the founder of Tuskegee Institute?
ANS. *Booker T. Washington.*

QUES. Who was the Black American who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950?
ANS. *Dr. Ralph Bunche.*

QUES. Who was the inventor of the automatic air brake for trains?
ANS. *Granville T. Woods.*

QUES. In 1893, this person performed the first successful heart operation. Who was he?
ANS. *Dr. Daniel Hale Williams.*

QUES. Who was the first Black American woman to sing in the Metropolitan Opera?
ANS. *Marian Anderson.*

QUES. Who is known as the "Father of the Blues"?
ANS. *W.C. Handy.*

QUES. Who was the first person to place our country's flag at the North Pole?
ANS. *Matthew Henson.*

QUES. Who is the first Black woman member of the U.S. Congress?
ANS. *Shirley Chisholm, Representative from N.Y., 1968.*

QUES. Who was the first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, formed in 1816?
ANS. *Richard Allen.*

QUES. Who was the author of the novels: "Notes of A Native Son"; "Another Country"; "The Fire Next Time"?
ANS. *James Baldwin.*

QUES. Who was the successful merchant in the early 1800's who used his time and money to establish cultural relations with Africa?
ANS. *Paul Cuffe.*

QUES. Who is the Black American who fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill and organized the first Black Masonic Lodge in America?
ANS. *Prince Hall.*

QUES. Who commanded the famous all Black fighter squadron, the 99th, in World War II, and later became a Lieutenant General?
ANS. *Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.*

QUES. Who is the Black American who became an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court?
ANS. *Thurgood Marshall.*

QUES. Who was the greatest of all Black abolitionists?
ANS. *Frederick Douglass.*

QUES. Who was the first Black American to become a member of the National Security Council?
ANS. *Carl T. Rowan-as chief of the U.S. Information Service.*

QUES. Who was the doctor who developed a process for changing blood into plasma?
ANS. *Dr. Charles Drew.*

QUES. Who is the college professor, sociologist, well-known for his writing "The Souls of Black Folk", "Black Folk Then and Now" and "Encyclopedia of the Negro"?
ANS. *Dr. W.E.B. DuBois.*

QUES. Who was called "Moses" by many Black Americans for aid in leading slaves to freedom?
ANS. *Harriet Tubman.*

QUES. Who was one of America's great historians, and the author of "From Slavery to Freedom"?
ANS. *John Hope Franklin.*

QUES. His important invention changed the shoe industry. Who is he?
ANS. *Jan Matzeliger.*

QUES. Who was a famous Indian fighter who discovered a pass to the Northwest?
ANS. *James Beckwourth.*

QUES. Who was the "Wizard of Tuskegee", who developed many uses for the peanut?
ANS. *George Washington Carver.*

QUES. Who invented methods for refining sugar?
ANS. *Norbert Rillieux.*

QUES. Who was the author of an almanac and the man who helped with the development of Washington, D.C.?
ANS. *Benjamin Banneker.*

QUES. Who commanded a Confederate ship in the Civil War and sailed to freedom?
ANS. *Robert Smalls.*

QUES. Who is called the Black Joan of Arc?
ANS. *Sojourner Truth.*

QUES. Who was one of the best known poets of the colonial period?
ANS. *Phyllis Wheatley.*

Pages 30-37 were contributed by:
Ms. Lottie Miles

.....Information was taken from picture cards titled: "Famous Black People in American History".

Absalom Jones

(1746-1818)

Free blacks in the North before the Civil War had a precarious existence. By right, they were citizens; in some cases they were allowed the same privileges as whites. Segregation, as blacks were to experience in the South after 1865 and the century to follow, was quite the exception in places like Philadelphia, New York and major cities in New England. Free blacks worshipped in the same churches as whites, but their presence was uneasy. Blacks often found themselves merely tolerated if not held contemptuously at a distance.

During the mid 1700's Absalom Jones emerged as a leading black clergyman in the Episcopal Church. Absalom Jones was born a slave on November 6, 1746 in Sussex, Delaware. Taken from the fields into the house by his master, Absalom proved early to be intelligent and frugal. He taught himself to read a primer he bought with money he had earned. Soon he could read the Scriptures, spending many hours in careful study. Separated from his family at the age of sixteen, Absalom was taken to Philadelphia by his new master who used his slave's ability to manage a small business. After studying independently at night school, Absalom married a slave whom he was later able to free along with himself in 1784.

Absalom Jones became a member of St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church where free blacks experienced relative friendship and hospitality with white parishioners. As more free blacks moved into Philadelphia, racial tension festered. Blacks who had attended church quietly for years and had sat wherever there were available seats, were now required to sit in the balcony. One Sunday in 1787, Absalom Jones, while yet in prayer, was abruptly marshalled from kneeling position to sit above. An obedient man, he would have gone willingly; he

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

merely wanted to finish his prayers.

Outraged by such un-Christian treatment, Jones and other indignant blacks left St. George's to form the Free African Society. Many blacks, like his close friend and colleague, Richard Allen, remained members of the Methodist Church while others following Jones founded St. Thomas, the first African Episcopal Church. By 1795, Absalom Jones became the first black rector in the Episcopal Church in the United States. He served St. Thomas Church for 22 years until his death on February 13, 1818.

Shortly before his ordination, Absalom Jones, with the help of Richard Allen, heroically assisted the city of Philadelphia during an outbreak of yellow fever which devastated an entire neighborhood. Because it was wrongly believed that blacks were immuned to the disease, white citizens asked blacks to nurse or bury its victims. Jones and Allen responded to the plea, successfully organizing a rescue plan. Afterwards, they weathered accusations of negligence and greed from white ingrates who felt that they had profitted from the pestilence and could have done more.

Today, Black Episcopalians honor Absalom Jones Day on the Sunday closest to the day he died. In predominantly black Episcopal Churches, primarily in the North, his day is celebrated by recounting that shameful Sunday in 1787 and singing black hymns and spirituals.

Nat Love

"Deadwood Dick"

(?------?)

(Post Civil War Period)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Yes, there were black cowboys. If students have never seen them on television or in the movies, it is not because they did not exist, but rather because casting directors in Hollywood do not accurately study history. Nat Love or "Deadwood Dick" was a black man who could shoot a gun, ride a horse and wrestle a bull, as well as, if not better than, his white counterparts.

His exact place and date of birth remain a mystery to historians, but his existence is chronicled in the book, The Life and Adventures of Nat Love: Better Known in the Cattle Country as "Deadwood Dick" - by himself. A colorful, rakish figure once photographed in chaps, lasso, blousy shirt, neckerchief and floppy hat, Nat claimed as his close acquaintances Billy the Kid, Buffalo Bill and the James Brothers. His exploits included repelling Indian attacks, Cavalry charges and stampeding cattle. "Deadwood Dick" was a name taken from Deadwood, South Dakota where Nat Love won $100 in a roping contest on the 4th of July, 1876. In nine minutes flat, Nat proved his skill in bronco busting or breaking a wild horse. On that same day, he won a sharp-shooting match.

Then there was the time he tried to steal a U.S. Army cannon. For a joke, he ordered a drink for his horse and himself in a Mexican saloon. Nat or "Deadwood" was blessed with a sharp eye, a strong body and a rollicking sense of humor that kept him alive.

In 1890, Nat "Deadwood Dick" Love hung up his saddle and duds to work as a Pullman porter on trains leaving Chicago for the West. His passengers became captive audiences to his lusty yarns of his cowboy days. So, whenever you see "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" on the screen, think also of "Deadwood Dick".

Dr. Charles Richard Drew

(1904-1950)

Blood banks can be directly attributed to the work of Dr. Charles Richard Drew, a black physician. Born on June 3, 1904, in Washington, D.C., to Richard and Nora Drew, Charles always wanted to be a doctor. As a student in high school, he excelled in science and in athletics. At Amherst College, Massachusetts, Charles Drew received high recognition in biology and chemistry. He also won many honors as star half-back on the football team and in track and field events. He was awarded the Mossman Award for being the most outstanding student.

After graduating from Amherst, in 1926, Charles Drew earned money for medical school by teaching at Morgan College in Baltimore. He was able to successfully complete McGill University Medical School in Canada where he graduated with honors in physiological anatomy. At Columbia University in New York, he began his research on blood transfusions which were crucial in saving lives.

Storing blood was a problem. Refrigerating it on ice was no solution. Dr Drew devised a method of separating the blood cells from the plasma. The plasma could then be dried into a powder for longer storage and easy transport. His idea worked. During the outbreak of World War II, Britain was in dire need of blood. Dr. Drew's success in establishing blood banks quickly received the attention of the British. They asked him to set up a blood plasma program for their wounded soldiers. Soon the American Red Cross adopted the idea and when the U.S. entered the war, Dr. Charles Drew administered the blood banks for the allies. In 1942, Charles Drew received the Springarn Medal for his noteworthy contribution to black progress.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dr. Drew's discovery saved countless lives. Still there was the obstacle of race. Military practice did not allow blacks to give blood to the bank; "black blood" was considered different from "white blood", although science did not support this notion. Dr. Drew angrily protested this ignorance publicly. Soon "black blood" was stored but was placed on separate shelves to be used only for black soldiers.

Ironically, Dr. Charles Richard Drew, the "Father of the Blood Bank", died in an automobile accident in 1950 from massive bleeding. Rumor spread that he had been denied transfusion because he was black. Actually, he died before the ambulance arrived. To this day, we will never know "which" blood would have been used to save his life.

Paul Laurence Dunbar

(1872-1906)

Paul Laurence Dunbar, born June 27, 1872, in Dayton, Ohio, to former slave parents, Joshua and Matilda, was the first black American to receive national recognition as a literary figure. During his lifetime, he had written four complete collections of stories, six volumes of poetry, four novels, lyrics to a musical, as well as countless articles, sketches and poems.

In high school in Dayton, Paul Laurence Dunbar enjoyed the praise and admiration of his classmates and teachers. Although reserved and shy, he became president of his class and editor of the school's literary magazine. In fact, he wrote the class poem. While working as an elevator operator, he published his first work, Oak and Ivy in 1893. Unable to attend college, Dunbar tried to support himself by his writings. His second volume, Majors and Minors 1895, failed to receive any more attention and funds than the first. In 1896, his Lyrics of a Lowly Life earned the praise of the leading critic, William Dean Howells, who graciously wrote the introduction. This work gave Paul Laurence Dunbar the national reputation that supported his writings until he died.

Of all his various works, Dunbar remains most noted for his plantation tales and poems written in dialect. Although he never lived in the South, had never seen a plantation, he was credited with capturing the simple humor and pleasures of the black rustic. Dunbar felt that if whites could be reminded of how faithful and kind blacks had been in antebellum days, they would be more tolerant of blacks now that they were free. This honorable attempt failed in the eyes of most black

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

critics who felt that Dunbar unwittingly contributed to the negative stereotype of the happy darky. The Strength of Gideon 1899, a splendid example of what Paul Laurence Dunbar hoped to accomplish, is, on the surface, a collection of humorous anecdotes of plantation life; careful reading, however, reveals a skillfully honed social commentary on the plight of blacks in the United States.

Failing health and a sense of personal failure caused an early death to a brilliant man whose frustrations were encapsuled in his poem "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings". Paul Laurence Dunbar is remembered as one of America's most popular poets. His creative genius, his quiet eloquence and haunting dignity serve as models to black writers today.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brawley, Benjamin (ed.) Early Negro American Writers New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1935.

_____ Paul Laurence Dunbar, Poet of His People Chapel Hill, 1936.

Franco, John M. Afro-American Contributors to American Life Westchester, Illinois: Benefic Press, 1971.

Stratton, Madeline R. Negroes Who Helped Build America Columbus, Ohio: Ginn and Company, 1965.

Pages 38-44 were contributed by:
Robert J. Moore
Teacher of English
Grades 9-12

Rafael Cordero

(1790-1868)

Rafael Cordero y Molina was born in October of 1790 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His parents must have been educated people because they taught the boy to read and write. There were only two primary schools at the time and the rule was: "Black children not admitted".

In 1810, Rafael Cordero founded his own school to provide free education. Any child that wanted to learn was welcome, regardless of race or economic conditions. The school opened in the town of San German and later was transferred to San Juan.

Some of his students became famous men: José Julian Acosta, abolishionist and patriot, Román Baldorioty de Castro, educator, abolishionist and patriot and Alejandro Tapia y Rivera, dramatist and lecturer.

While teaching students for free, he earned his family income as a cigar maker (others say as a shoemaker). The government acknowledged his contribution in education by providing him with a small pension in his old age.

Rafael Cordero Molina died in San Juan on July 5, 1868. He is known as the father of public education in Puerto Rico - "El Maestro" - The Teacher.

(L. Toro)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Ernesto Ramos Antonini

(1898-1963)

8ა

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Ernesto Ramos Antonini was born April 24, 1898 in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. He studied law at the University of Puerto Rico and graduated in 1922. To pay for his studies, he worked as a pianist at a theater in Rio Piedras. From 1923 to 1924, he taught mathematics at the Ponce High School, the same school from which he graduated several years earlier.

Ramos Antonini started his political involvement in 1923. From 1925 to 1928, he served as a councilman in the City of Ponce. In 1931, he joined Muñoz Marín and remained his political ally for the rest of his life.

In 1932, he supported the Tydings Project that offered Puerto Rico independence. Ernesto Ramos Antonini participated in the Liberal Party Commission created to make recommendations.

In the year 1937, a group of Liberals created a new party for the purpose of achieving independence and social justice. The group was named the Popular Democratic Party.

Ramos Antonini was elected State Representative and he served as vice-president and later president of the legislative body. He co-authored and sponsored laws that affected the political, economic and cultural lives of the people on the island.

Ernesto helped create the Worker's Bank, Free Music Schools sponsored by the government, the creation of the Symphonic Orchestra and laws that increased salaries and benefits for workers. He fought against the monopoly of the large supermarket and was a staunch supporter of the Labor Movement.

He was one of the delegates in the Convention that created the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Ernesto Ramos Antonini died on January 9, 1963 knowing that the people of the Island of Puerto Rico loved and respected him.

(L. Toro)

Dr. José Celso Barbosa

(1857-1921)

José Celso Barbosa was born on July 27, 1857 in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. He started school in his hometown and later transferred to a school in San Juan where he graduated in 1875. The following year he went to the United States to study Medicine at the University of Michigan.

He returned to Puerto Rico to start his practice. Soon after, he was also teaching Natural History in the Ateneo and Anatomy in secondary school.

A man of many talents, he became involved in politics. In 1887, he was chosen as delegate to the Ponce Conference where the Autonomist Party was founded. In 1897, he was appointed Assistant Commissioner of Education.

In 1898, the island sovereignty changed and he favored the annexation to the United States. The following year he founded the Republican Party on the island and served in its executive committee until 1917.

Barbosa received many honors. In 1903, the University of Michigan conferred him an honorary Master Degree and in 1917, the University of Puerto Rico conferred him an Honorary Doctoral Degree.

In 1917, the Jones Law created the Senate on the island government and Barbosa was one of the senators elected by the People. He was re-elected in 1921.

Among the laws he introduced to the juridical system of Puerto Rico are: trial by jury and Habeas Corpus. Barbosa died in Santurce, Puerto Rico on September 21, 1921.

(L. Toro)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE